

Emergency Response News

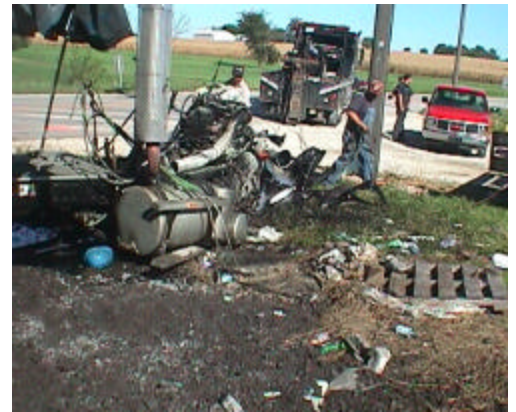


September 2000

IDEM assists in cleanup after semi-tractor, train accident

Fuel spill requires extensive cleanup actions.

An IDEM emergency responder helped at an accident scene where a semi-tractor hauling 26 tons of coal collided with a locomotive at the intersection of Highway 58 and railroad tracks in Sullivan County on September 21. The semi was demolished on impact, which released diesel fuel, motor oil and coal.



CSX hired a contractor to handle the cleanup. Carlisle Volunteer Fire Department, CSX and the contractor plugged punctures in the locomotive's tank to stop the release of diesel fuel. Firefighters erected an earthen dam in a drainage ditch and applied absorbent materials to contain free liquids. Contractors vacuumed the remaining fuel in the semi's fuel tanks and free liquids in the soil and recovered the coal. Contaminated soil was excavated at the intersection, railroad easement and drainage ditch for disposal in a permitted landfill. IDEM's emergency responder inspected the locomotive and required its fuel tank be off-loaded, prior to being moved to an area rail yard. Approximately 1,300 gallons of product were recovered from the tank.

The Indiana Department of Transportation had closed the intersection and detoured traffic during the initial cleanup actions. The health department and emergency management agency in Sullivan County were notified about the incident.

IDEM will continue to review the soil sampling results in the drainage ditch and railroad ballast until the cleanup is completed to the agency's satisfaction to be protective of human health and the environment.

Site Snapshot

IDEM Action:

Response to fuel spill and oversee cleanup.

Location:

Rural area at the intersection of Highway 58 and CSX railroad tracks in Sullivan County.

Primary Substances of Concern:

Petroleum products

Environmental Threats:

Potential contamination to groundwater and surface water from diesel fuel.

For further information about IDEM's emergency response action at this incident, contact staff at the following phone numbers or toll-free at 800-451-6027.

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